Learning Results Review Committee
Minutes
3-24-2005

Members Present:

Anita Bernhardt	Patrick
MaryJo O' Connor	Ellie Multer, State Board
Bette Manch	Nancy Perkins, MEA
Janice Lachan	Brian Dorr, TAC
Karoldene Barnes	Dan Hupp, Math Specialist
Francis Eberle	Dean Collins, Guidance
Bonnie Fortini	Becky Berger, UMF
John Wright, USM	Deborah Howard, Baxter
Tom Majors, SP High	Jon Geiger
Valerie Seaburg	Don Cannan

Following introductions, norms were reviewed. The group provided feedback to a question regarding the need for a process evaluator.

Patrick provided context for the day via updates. He reminded us our work dovetails with the work of others.

There are a:

1. Variety of bills about MLRs in this session – One of several about timeline, assessments. Tuesday, April 5, 2005 – Bills will begin to be heard. April 4, 2005 – Governor's announcement will be held.

Widespread argument about the high standards for all kids will be upheld with guiding principles.

Implementation will have mid course corrections, however.

2. there is a select panel meeting now of State Board to extend the vision of education in MAIN.
   2 themes:
   - FOCUS – ensure local education systems focus education on application and engagement of. Engagement is **very** important for **all** students.
   - Rigor
   - Relevance
   - High standards for All

In addition, there is a lot of support for:
- A through evaluation of MLRs
- Thinking about contexts

MaryJo reviewed our _____ values and goals.

Anita reviewed her place on the Chancellor's Committee on College Readiness. There is concern about differences in student readiness for college and the need for remedial courses. Also most colleges have differences in entry criteria.

Anita continued by summarizing her feedback on Values and Goals Guideline from multiple groups (and if we want here). She then disseminated the document from those groups and discussed the background from each group's discussions.

There is a tension between need for including Guiding Principles and Standards Indicators as well as Skills/Knowledge and Dispositions and Attitudes.

> p.16 Consider **RIGOR** – need to define
> Eliminated PK-16 Seamless system – may not be representative of MLRs intent.
> Integration – not about importance – more about framing the values and goal.
> Literacy and Numeracy – is this the only concern? Other areas are important to detail. Talk about environments that are engaging and motivating as an instructional context…

Patrick noted that the document is silent regarding Professional Development. May want to add 3rd bullet under
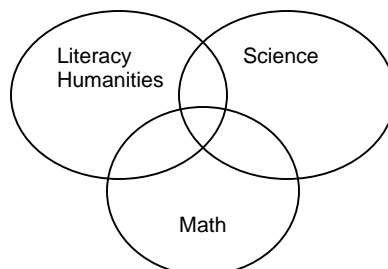> ➢ Value Engagement and Motivation of Students

Passionate discussion followed regarding cross-cutting assessments regarding students' with needs to access. It is important to…………..

MaryJo requested that we think about having teachers discuss where they are integrating subjects.

Started to think about doing justice to both by striking a balance between knowledge, skills, and an integration of same through assessments.

Need to acknowledge tension between GP and Content Standards as tension between parts and whole.

Anita discussed overlap of contents by describing the Venn:
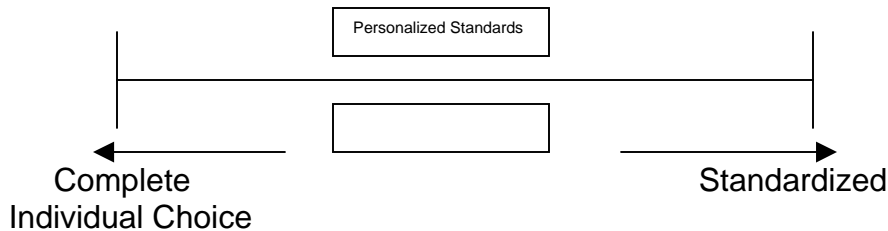

Literacy Humanities

Science

Math
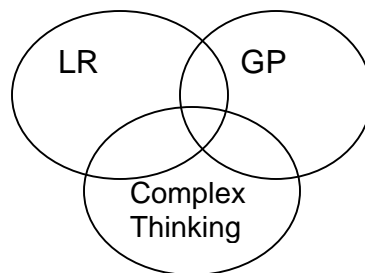
Integration becomes very important.

John noted that cross-disciplinary problems are KEY to this conversation because Life is like this. He noted that it is much easier to learn within the context of a real-life problem.

The learning needs of all kids need to be discussed.

Need to think about personalizing standards rather than standardization.

Personalized Standards

Complete
Individual Choice

Standardized

MaryJo shared another framework

LR   GP

Complex
Thinking

Anita then moved to the next draft of Goals and Values using many ideas we had been discussing. She noted that we will stick to ideas in discussion.

Discussion revolved around **clearly** articulating:
1. the only constant is CHANGE
2. what MLR is really setting for a standard and/or minimum competency once measured. Is it **ALL** students' college ready!

Current MLR – described the **WHAT**. Consider describing the **HOW**.

The question of the purpose of MLRs will now go to the Commissioner.

The Values and Goals were then discussed in detail, with suggestions provided.

➢ Career Prep is important but not a stand alone. It is integratable and applied to learning.
➢ Technology is important but also not a stand alone. It may need to be considered as information literacy.

A passionate discussion ensued and the group wondered why all other content areas are not embedded into the Career Prep realm.

Discussion brought us back to the core body of knowledge and skills. Francis reminded us that standards set the criteria and guidelines that then are implemented as a basis for reform to education.

Only part of the job we have as educators.

Next, Anita provided a new copy of <u>The Review of the Maine Learning Results.</u> This group is <u>Design and Gatekeeper Group.</u>

The Content Area Panel is the Work Horse.
The Focus group provides the input
The <u>Instructional Context Group</u> assists all in designing ways to make all learning areas relevant.

Anita reported that 220 plus Nomination Forms were received for content area panels.

The group complimented Anita on the graphic and requested that she add a timeline (eventually). She noted that the entire cycle needed to be finished by 2006-2007.

The Content Area Panels Role and Responsibility document.

Ellie suggested that previous MLR developers need to be kept at a minimum (possibly 3).

The group, with a few modifications, agreed to the concept of the document.

The group then engaged in conversation around the <u>Instructional Context Group</u> document.

Several topics came up:
  ➢ Including students (JMG, recent grads, floundering Gr. 10,11, and 12 students, top MEA students).
  ➢ Selecting Facilitators
  ➢ Input from those who choose not to apply or are not asked to give input.

It was suggested that we align purposes and methodology and test the ways to input.

Dan suggested that we ask Chan. 10 to support our value of 'openness and transparency' by allowing us to air the new MLRs as they emerge.

Anita asked if we could read and provide feedback to the draft letters for the business community and for the parent groups.

At the next meeting, please bring your calendar to set future dates.

She reminded us that the dates for the first panels will include July 22 and August 10 and 11.

Core Values and Goals will go up on-line by the beginning to the middle of April.

Minutes for the next meeting: Bonnie Fortini

ELA
Math
Health/PE   July 22 – Aug 10, 11